

**Youth Workforce Investment Council Agenda
Central MA Workforce Investment Board
October 8, 2015**

Members Present: Ron Scott, Isidore Nosike, Robin Hooper, Kevin Crowley, John Trainor, Mike Quigley, Jena Adams, Cedric Arno, Carolyn Gordon, Carrick O'Brien (proxy for Charla Hixson), Toni Poti.

Members in Process/Guests: Austin Burk, Monica Bond, Kwesi Foster

Staff Present: Ed Gagne, Jeff Turgeon

Meeting Minutes

1. **Welcome & Introductions:** The meeting was called to order 2:35PM and all attendees were asked to introduce themselves.
2. **Note of Potential Conflicts of Interest & Confirmation of Quorum:** It was announced that a quorum was present and no conflicts were noted at this time.
3. **Vote:**
 - a. **Approval of Minutes of June 11, 2015:** The June 11, 2015 meeting minutes were unanimously approved by a motion by T. Poti and a second.
4. **Presentation: Laurie Ross and Dodi Swope, Youth Certificate Program:** Please see handouts section for presentation.
5. **Presentation: Susan Strong, Recovery High School:** Please see handouts section for materials and schedule.
6. **Discussion:**
 - a. **Standing Committee/YWIC Workplan:** E. Gagne reviewed the YWIC Workplan. He highlighted activities, benchmarks for success and strategies to achieve FY16 goals.
Vote: Upon a motion by R. Hooper and a second, the group unanimously voted to approve the Standing Committee/YWIC's Youth Workplan.
7. **Updates:**
 - a. **WIOA Youth Update:** E. Gagne mentioned that Worcester is 1 of 25 cities selected to provide Youth Employment Capability Training sponsored by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. The curriculum is offered to year round WIOA employment programs to improve financial literacy skills for at-risk youth.
 - b. **YouthWorks (YW):** E. Gagne reported the year-round YW program will serve 30 out of school youth in Worcester. The program begins 10/21/15. It is a 7-week program which includes 20 hours of readiness and career guidance training. WCAC is managing the program and serving as the employer of record.
 - c. **Job1 Group:** E. Gagne reported we are looking to re-launch the business outreach component of Job1 in collaboration with the Worcester City Manager's office. The goal of this effort is to involve the office in making appeals to businesses on behalf of Job1 coalition program to help better connect graduates with internships

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and jobs. We are looking to see if a pre-screening interview process, perhaps tied into the ACT's National Career Readiness Certificate online assessment, is an effective way to ensure the best candidates for employers.

- d. **Connecting Activities** E. Gagne reported the Connecting Activities program served approximately 3,469 youth who participated in one or more of the following activities: career day, field trips, company tours, developed work-based learning plans, and career exploration activities. This year's initiative will focus on employer engagement. The CMWIB will have a booth at the Business Expo Conference and Trade Show on November 5th. The WIB will enlist current CA employer partners to assist with the booth in an effort to recruit new partner members.
- e. **Bounce Youth Class:** E. Gagne mentioned we are looking to offer another Youth Bounce Session. If a program is willing to host, please contact Ed at GagneE@WorcesterMA.org
- f. **Standing Committee/YWIC Member Program Updates:** C. Gordon mentioned October is White Cane Awareness Month – Stop for White Cane and Dog Guide Users at Street Crossings www.mass.gov.ma.us/mcb

C. Arno highlighted Future Focus Media – A Co-operative and Youth Training Institute www.FutureFocusMedia.org

8. **Announcements:** There were no other announcements at this time.

9. **Next Meeting:**

- a. **December 10th – CMWIB, 340 Main Street, 4th Floor, Worcester – New Location!**

10. **Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 PM on a motion by R. Hooper and a second.

*Respectfully submitted by,
Ed Gagne*

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